New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007

Pursuant to RSA 20:7



December 2007







New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services 2007 Annual Report Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007

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Introduction



I am pleased to release the department's fiscal year 2007 Annual Report. During this past fiscal year, DES reached a significant milestone – the 20th anniversary of the agency was celebrated in January 2007. This anniversary reminds me that society seldom achieves significant change in a short period of time. However, change implemented over a long period of time yields quantifiable results. This is indeed true of New Hampshire's environment.

The steps that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has taken over its history show the signs of measurable results, including the accomplishments of the past fiscal year, which we have elaborated on later in this report. Of course we need to take more steps that lead to more improvements, knowing that our actions today will have positive impacts on New Hampshire's environment tomorrow. We moved toward a brighter tomorrow during the past 12 months by focusing on our mission of *sustaining a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire*.

This report provides the reader with our critical financial and personnel data, as well as presents many of the major projects and areas of focus on which DES has been working to make New Hampshire's environment cleaner and healthier. When society looks back on our efforts, it will see that the work we committed ourselves to has profoundly improved the environment in which we live.

I hope that you find the 2007 Department of Environmental Services Annual Report informative, and encourage you to visit our website at www.des.nh.gov to learn more about the department's many programs and initiatives.

~ Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

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Mission Statement, Guiding Principles and Goals

MISSION

The mission of the Department of Environmental Services is to help sustain a high quality of life for all citizens by protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire.

DES GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Department of Environmental Services will carry out its mission in partnership with the public, businesses, government, environmental community, and many other organizations by:

- * Promoting mutual respect and effective, straightforward communications, within and outside of the agency.
- * Providing timely and consistent responses to all customers.
- * Encouraging meaningful opportunities for public participation in meeting its responsibilities.
- * Integrating environmental quality, public health and safety, and economic vitality, and considering the concerns and aspirations of all citizens, while pursuing its responsibilities under the law.
- * Striving for high levels of effectiveness in all operations based on a commitment to continuous improvement and an openness to innovative approaches.
- * Facilitating scientifically and technically sound, cost effective, and environmentally appropriate solutions.
- * Leading the state government's environmental and sustainability initiatives.
- * Considering the long-term, cumulative, and cross-media effects of its policies, programs, and decisions.
- * Fostering environmental awareness and stewardship through education, outreach, and assistance.
- * Affording fair and equitable treatment of all New Hampshire citizens in the implementation of federal and state environmental laws, rules, programs, and policies, and in the management of the agency.
- * Maintaining a work environment that attracts and retains the most dedicated and talented staff.
- * Minimizing environmental and human health risks to the greatest extent possible, especially for our most vulnerable populations.

DES GOALS

1. Clean Air

The air we breathe in New Hampshire is safe and healthy for all citizens, including those most vulnerable, and our ecosystems are free from the adverse impacts of air pollution.

2. Clean Water

All of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, coastal waters, groundwater, and wetlands are clean and support healthy ecosystems, provide habitats for a diversity of plant and animal life, and support appropriate uses.

3. Safe Drinking Water

All drinking water in New Hampshire will always be safe, available and conservatively used.

4. Proper Waste Management & Effective Site Remediation

Promote responsible waste management and ensure wastes/regulated materials are properly handled and disposed. Conduct prompt remediation to restore contaminated sites to productive use while protecting the environment and public health.

5. Protection of Natural Habitat

The sustainable development of New Hampshire's lands and natural resources is promoted throughout the state while protecting the diverse wildlife habitat, and unique features that make New Hampshire an attractive place to live, work, and visit.

6. Dam Safety and Water Management

The state's surface and groundwater resources are managed and regulated for the protection, enhancement and restoration of environmental quality and public safety to support and balance social and ecological water needs.

7. Effective Management and Leadership

DES sets and achieves the highest standards for effective internal management, fiscal responsibility, and leadership on environmental issues.

8. Pollution Prevention and Sustainability

Encourage best efforts to prevent pollution before turning to recycling, treatment and/or disposal of the materials causing pollution. Eliminate or reduce the toxicity and absolute volumes of waste materials. Eliminate accidental pollutant releases to the environment. Conserve materials, energy, and water in order to move toward a sustainable society.

9. Public Education, Outreach and Partnerships

DES provides effective public education, outreach, and partnership activities.

10. Compliance Assurance

In order to foster full compliance with the laws it administers, DES provides education and outreach to the public, provides assistance to the regulated community, monitors compliance on an on-going basis, and maintains a fair and effective enforcement process.

11. Information Management

Information is collected, managed, analyzed, and disseminated effectively and efficiently to support well informed, timely and cost-effective environmental decision-making.

Major Accomplishments in FY2007

MAJOR PROJECTS

DES funds effort to update Ashuelot River Corridor Management Plan

DES has awarded funding to the Ashuelot Local River Management Advisory Committee (Ashuelot LAC) and the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) in January of 2007, to update the Ashuelot River Corridor Management Plan. The grant for \$16,100 was made available via pass through funds that DES receives from the EPA on a bi-annual basis to conduct water quality planning activities. Funds are awarded through a competitive process to regional planning commissions and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions.

In 1993, the Ashuelot River was enrolled in the New Hampshire "Rivers Management and Protec-



Stone bridge over the Ashuelot River in Keene.

tion Program" (RMPP) by the New Hampshire legislature and convened the Ashuelot LAC. The RMPP stipulates that the duties of LACs include the development of an advisory plan for the management and protection of the natural and cultural resources of each designated river corridor.

The updated plan is available online at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/documents/AshuelotRiver-

CorridorManagementPlan.pdf.

The Ashuelot River is located in southwestern New Hampshire and is one of 14 state designated rivers. For more information about the RMPP please contact Steve Couture, DES Rivers Coordinator at (603) 271-8801 or scouture@des.state.nh.us, or visit the RMPP home page at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/.

Environmental leadership initiative encourages sustainability

To help spur environmental progress, DES supports a more proactive approach, which many businesses have adopted. These businesses ensure their sustainability by implementing management practices that link their economic goals with efforts to reduce their environmental impacts. To add to DES's existing programs that help people achieve better environmental performance, we have begun an Environmental Leadership Initiative to encourage organized environmental management and leadership behavior so that we can all work more closely together to address our shared priorities. Through this project, DES will:

- Work with various sectors to develop environmental best management practices, including management systems.
- Work with colleges and universities to integrate environmental sustainability into their business curricula.
- Address the particular needs of small businesses and municipalities.
- Establish a multi-tiered recognition program for New Hampshire businesses and others that meet and exceed regulatory standards.

An inaugural meeting of stakeholders was held in April 2007. Through this project, we want to rec-

ognize and reward companies or organizations that are leading the way in environmental management through innovation and ingenuity, while creating a process that allows their peers to emulate their actions and to go beyond by instilling a proactive attitude that promotes sustainable behavior. Together we will rise above the environmental challenges that we face today and those of the future.

For more information on this dynamic project and how you can be involved, please contact Robert Minicucci, project manager, at (603) 271-2941 or rminicucci@des.state.nh.us.

New Air Quality Notification System Now Available

Early this past summer, DES launched
EnviroFlash in New Hampshire. EnviroFlash is a
new nation-wide air quality notification system
sponsored by the EPA in partnership with DES and
other state and local air quality agencies.
EnviroFlash provides important air quality information such as forecasts and action day announcements via email, cell phone, or pager notification.
This service is especially helpful for people who
are at greater risk from air pollution, including
children, older adults and people with heart or
lung diseases, such as coronary artery disease or

People can sign up for EnviroFlash by going to www.airnow.gov. Click on the EnviroFlash logo at the top right side of the page. Find and click on the city nearest you on the map. Type in your information details, pick a city or enter your zip code, submit, and wait for your confirmation e-mail to activate your subscription. Signing up does not require private information, nor will e-mail addresses be shared with any other parties.

asthma.

Information on air quality forecasts and current air quality levels throughout New Hampshire is also available at www.airquality.nh.gov. For additional information on air quality or EnviroFlash, contact the DES Air Resources Division at (603) 271-1370.

Cleanup completed at NH Plating Superfund site

In January of 2007, the cleanup of a joint federal and state was completed at the 13-acre New Hamp-

shire Plating Co. Superfund site in Merrimack. The work was coordinated between the EPA and DES.

The 13-acre New Hampshire Plating Superfund site operated as an electroplating facility from 1962 to 1985. Wastewater containing metals, solvents and cyanide used in the electroplating operations was discharged into drainage channels in the former building floor, and flowed into unlined lagoons north of the building. Contaminants from the unlined lagoons impacted on-site wetlands, contaminated surface and subsurface soils, and reached the groundwater.

Between 1989 and 1994, EPA stabilized contaminated soils and sludge in an on-site storage cell, removed additional soil for off-site disposal, and demolished a former electroplating building (including the foundation, floor slab and underground storage tanks). Between December 2004 and December 2006, EPA cleared approximately seven acres of brush, trees and overgrowth from the site, oversaw the demolition of a 13,600-ton concrete storage cell, which was created during an earlier phase of the work and completed the soil excavation, treatment and capping activities. The site was added to EPA's National Priorities List, commonly known as the Superfund list, in 1992.

Over \$22 million was spent at the site to conduct interim cleanup measures, perform comprehensive site investigations and complete the final design and cleanup of the site. In addition, as compensation for the loss of wetlands at the site, \$1.6 million was provided for the purchase and protection of the 50-acre Greens Pond wetland area in Merrimack and the 38-acre Grassy Pond wetland area in Litchfield. In 2001, The town of Merrimack was also awarded an EPA grant of \$99,000 to the Town of Merrimack to develop a reuse plan for the site.

More information at epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/nhplating.

State releases geologic map in digital format

The New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS) at DES, announced in December 2006 that the Bedrock Geologic Map of the state was now available in a digital format. This map was first published in 1997 and has been available in paper format at the

1:250,000 scale, and digitally from the GRANIT database. The digital data format supports both GIS data analysis and on-demand printing of map products for purchase and use by the public. The latest version of the map, which is available on CD, incorporates a few minor corrections from the original map, making it the most up-to-date version of the data that is available.

Hydrogeologic consultants, engineers, scientists, planners, and health officials routinely use geologic maps as the basis for land-use master plans, infrastructure expansion, groundwater availability assessments and protection initiatives, scientific studies, and inventories of natural resources and hazards, e.g., earthquakes and landslides. The CD also contains other useful data sets that can be used with the geology layer, including over 38,000 georeferenced water wells; watershed boundaries, the location of streams, ponds, wetlands, and open water bodies; political boundaries, and an index of 7.5 minute quadrangles.

The transition to digital format is necessitated by the increasing costs of traditional "hard copy" printing, storage, and distribution. In addition, digital data also allows a user to exploit the power of a computer to combine several layers of information into useful, composite tools. The CD can be purchased from the DES Public Information Center at pip@des.state.nh.us or call (603) 271-2975. For further information on the digital map, contact Dr. David Wunsch, State Geologist, at (603) 271-6482.

Opening of first state-owned biodiesel pump

As an outgrowth of Gov. Lynch's Executive Order 2005-4 An Order for State Government to Lead-by-Example in Energy Efficiency, the NH Department of Transportation in collaboration with UNH, opened the first state-owned biodiesel pump in August 2006. The pump is located at the current DOT station at the University of New Hampshire campus. The opening of the site marks the first use of biodiesel by DOT and UNH vehicles. Local communities and school districts will also have access to the facility to fuel their vehicles. The use of biodiesel, a cleaner-burning, domestically produced, renewable fuel, in the state DOT and UNH fleets is another step in the process of meeting the

goals of my Executive Order and increasing our energy independence.

Biodiesel is a diesel fuel processed from vegetable oils, recycled food-grade oils, or animal fats. It is typically blended with petroleum diesel, with the most common blend being 20 percent biodiesel (B20). Biodiesel is non-toxic, biodegradable, and reduces many air pollutants, including particulate matter, hydrocarbons, air toxics and others. It also reduces the amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere with the burning of fossil fuels.

To highlight the immense importance of this new B20 pump, consider the fact that along with the benefits of decreasing our dependence on foreign oil, the minute the state of New Hampshire begins putting B20 biodiesel blend into our vehicles' tanks we reduce the petroleum use of each vehicle by 20 percent. We also reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of that vehicle by 16 percent; the sulfur emissions that cause acid rain by 20 percent; and toxic compound emissions by up to 50 percent.

Five years ago there were no public or private biodiesel fueling stations in New Hampshire. Since then, 10 retail outlets for biodiesel have opened in the state and several private tanks hold biodiesel blends. Now, the first state-owned biodiesel fueling facility has opened. New Hampshire can and should be a leader in protecting our environment by beginning to switch to renewable, lower emission, alternative fuels. The opening of the new biodiesel facility is just one more example of our commitment to this goal.

Governor, DES unveil improved air monitoring station at Pack Monadnock

At the start of the fiscal year, Governor Lynch joined DES at the summit of Pack Monadnock to unveil improvements to our air monitoring station that have allowed the state to better track air pollution entering New Hampshire from outside the state.

The station has been operating since 2002 as a joint effort between DES, DRED, and the University of New Hampshire. It is one of more than 20 different air monitoring sites throughout the state. Enhancements include increased monitoring of ozone-forming pollutants, mercury and carbon di-

oxide, and installation of educational displays.

In addition to ozone and ozone-forming pollutants, real-time small particle pollution (particulate matter) is measured here, which affects public health and causes regional haze. A message board and electronic display screen were added that show real-time data being measured at the site are prominent on the side of the building for viewing by the public.

HealthySEAT assessment tool for schools now online

The DES Environmental Health Program has been working with school facility managers in New Hampshire over the past year to implement the new EPA Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool or "HealthySEAT." HealthySEAT is a free, downloadable software tool that helps public and private school districts evaluate and manage their school facilities for key environmental, safety and health issues.

The HealthySEAT program is customized for New Hampshire web users and can be downloaded from www.des.nh.gov/ARD/EHP/HSE/ HealthySEAT.htm. The software allows New Hampshire school users to conduct self-assessments and track and manage information regarding their facilities. HealthySEAT does not replace any of the individual EPA programs available for schools, such as the Tools for Schools program. It is a fully customizable tool for environmental management and tracking, primarily for use by school district maintenance facility directors. DES invites schools to use HealthySEAT to promote local issues and programs, and provide a more holistic and integrated approach to providing a healthy and safe environment for children and staff.

For additional information, comments, or to set up an appointment, please contact Jessica Morton, DES Environmental Health Program, at (603) 271-3911.

New comprehensive guide for innovative land use planning

Land use has a direct impact on environmental quality. Most land use decisions are made at the local level, mainly by planning boards. As 15,000 acres of New Hampshire land changes from agriculture and forestry to developed land uses each

year, many planning boards are looking for better land use planning tools to provide for new development while achieving the goals of their master plans, which often relate to maintaining rural character and thriving downtowns and villages.

This pattern of development, small villages and towns surrounded by farms and forests, often called the "working landscape," is the spatial basis of a place that looks like home to New Englanders. The working landscape is also better for water quality. Working farms and forests provide vegetated buffers around water bodies, particularly headwater streams. Compact developments, such as villages, can accommodate more human activity with less pavement, and have less impact on water quality than low-density development.

State law provides towns with authority to use innovative land use controls (RSA 674:21), such as conservation subdivision, transfer of density rights, and environmental characteristics zoning. But the law does not define or provide guidance on these innovative techniques.

DES works with the nine regional planning agencies under the Regional Environmental Planning Program (REPP), providing funding to address local and regional environmental planning issues. Under the REPP, DES is working with the planning agencies to develop a guide to innovative land use controls and provide subsequent funding for direct technical assistance to municipalities.

The guide will include over 20 chapters with each chapter describing an innovative land use technique and providing a model ordinance or regulation that towns can adapt locally. Several chapters are available in review draft form. To see a list of all of the chapters in the guide and download available drafts, please visit www.des.nh.gov/repp.

DES works to clarify mercury and fish consumption message

In January of 2007, DES launched a mercury and fish consumption awareness outreach effort, thanks to a \$14,400 Healthy Communities Grant from EPA Region 1. The goal of the project is to provide improved communication to women of childbearing age to clarify the risk perception regarding mercury and fish consumption. State and federal fish

consumption guidance advises pregnant women to limit their intake of tuna, swordfish and certain other salt and freshwater fish that may contain mercury. The goal of the guidance is to ensure that women continue to eat fish and shellfish because of the nutritional benefits, while encouraging them to take steps to reduce their exposure to mercury.

For more information, contact Sherry Godlewski at sgodlewski@des.state.nh.us or (603) 271-6801, or Pam Schnepper at pschnepper@des.state.nh.us or (603) 271-3994.

Underwater green thumb: aquatic gardening in Lake Massasecum

In 1996, variable milfoil - New Hampshire's #1 exotic aquatic plant - was identified in Lake Massasecum, a 400-acre lake located in Bradford. Even following DES's coordinated diver surveys and hand-removal projects, an herbicide treatment in 1997, successive years of lake resident-coordinated mechanical harvesting and benthic barrier placement on the lake bottom, variable milfoil persisted.

When federal money became available for milfoil research, Lake Massasecum was one of the waterbodies chosen for study. The approach selected required milfoil to be physically removed from the lake system and native plants transplanted into the harvested areas to inhibit regrowth of milfoil. The premise was that the right combinations of native plants may inhibit milfoil re-growth through a combination of allelopathic means (basically, chemical warfare among plants) and physical competition for space.

In the summer of 2006, DES biologists and consultants visited the treatment and control plot sites. The project will evolve over the next few years, with continued monitoring and follow-up maintenance as needed.

Texas, Florida, Wisconsin and other states are also experimenting with this approach, but for other invasive species like Eurasian milfoil and hydrilla. This technique is also recognized by the national Aquatic Plant Management Society as a viable option for exotic aquatic plant control. For more detailed information about this project, or the other five projects that are being funded under the federal milfoil appropriations, contact Amy Smagula at asmagula@des.state.nh.us, or (603) 271-2248.

DES receives \$1,000 for Protected River signs

Early in the fiscal year, DES accepted a \$1,000 Community Grant from the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club Foundation in support of the Rivers Management and Protection Program "Protected River Sign Opportunity." The grant, which was issued at the request of the Hudson Sam's Club, will help purchase protected rivers signs that can be posted on state or town roads at designated river crossings.

New Hampshire currently has 14 designated rivers recognized by the US Congress, the New Hampshire General Court, and their local municipalities as significant resources. As a result of a Memorandum of Agreement, the DOT and the DES created signs that can be installed within state and municipal right-of-ways. The signs will provide the opportunity to recognize and raise awareness of New Hampshire's Designated Rivers and signifies a designated river's importance to the state's natural and cultural heritage.

For more information about the signs or the Rivers Management and Protection Program, contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, at (603) 271-8801 or on-line at www.des.nh.gov/rivers/documents/StateROWSignInstallationPermission-Form.pdf.

Sign up for E-News for the latest DES information via email

In early July of 2006, DES launched an electronic information service for anyone interested in receiving up-to-the-minute press releases, advisories, and newsletters from the Agency and its programs. Sign-up is voluntary and may be done on the DES website at www.des.nh.gov/enews/.

Listed below are the publications available through the service:

- Press Releases
- Press Advisories
- Environmental News the DES newsletter
- GreenWorks DES Watershed Assistance Program monthly bulletin
- Rip Tides NH Coastal Program bimonthly enewsletter

- Meanderings annual newsletter from the DES Rivers Management and Protection Program
- The Sampler- DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program newsletter
- The Source DES Drinking Water Source Protection Program quarterly newsletter
- Streamlines newsletter from the DES Volunteer River Assessment Program
- Supply Lines newsletter from the DES Water Supply Engineering Bureau
- Tidelines NH Coastal Program bi-annual newsletter
- Wastelines NH Pollution Prevention Program quarterly newsletter
- Wetlands Application Decision Reports

Within one year the service accepted approximately 600 signups and sent 60,000 messages. For more information about the service, please call Jim Martin, DES Public Information Officer, at (603) 271-3710 or jmartin@des.state.nh.us.

TrueValue and DES partner on free lamp recycling

In late 2006 DES joined in a first of its kind program with TrueValue hardware stores, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and Public Service of New Hampshire teamed up to create a system to collect, consolidate and recycle spent fluorescent lamps generated by homeowners and small businesses in New Hampshire and Vermont. Here's how it works: The TrueValue Distribution Center in Manchester stocks special lamp recycling boxes provided by Complete Recycling Solutions, a state-approved lamp recycling facility. TrueValue will use its product distribution system to send empty recycling boxes to participating, local TrueValue stores. Homeowners and small businesses may bring up to six fluorescent lamps to the local store where they will be accepted for free and stored in the recycling boxes. When the boxes are full, returning TrueValue distribution trucks will take the lamps back to the distribution center where they will be picked up by Complete Recycling Solution for recycling.

This program is being offered as a free service to

consumers. The cost of recycling the lamps is paid by DES. PSNH is helping DES with program advertising, and TrueValue hardware supplies the store locations, manages the lamps and transports them to their distribution center for consolidation and recycling. This program was piloted in Vermont last August, and has been so popular there that TrueValue may eventually expand it throughout its national chain of stores.

For more information on the program, please go to the DES Pollution Prevention web page at www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/.

DES partners with EPA's WaterSense Program

Near the end of the fiscal year, DES signed a partnership agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program. By forming a partnership with the WaterSense program, DES agrees to promote water efficiency and water efficient products in New Hampshire. DES is one of the first state agencies in the country to form a partnership with the program.

WaterSense is a voluntary public-private partnership program sponsored by EPA to promote water efficiency products and services in the marketplace. The WaterSense label is the symbol for products and services that meet EPA criteria for water efficiency and performance. The label will help consumers recognize products and programs that save water without sacrificing performance or quality.

More information about the WaterSense program may be found at www.epa.gov/watersense/. For other water conservation tips and advice, go to www.des.nh.gov/h2o_conservation.htm.

Waste programs move toward "paperless office"

Four years ago, the Contaminated Sites Programs of the Waste Management Division embarked on a goal to eliminate paper from their work flow and conduct transactions with the regulated community using electronic format. It was necessitated because of the high volume of paper being submitted and the lack of file space to store that paper.

In FY2007, 95 consulting firms submitted an average of 260 electronic documents per month through

the DES OneStop data provider upload system. This represents approximately 80 percent of all the documents received by the Contaminated Sites Programs. The remaining 20 percent of the documents that are submitted as hardcopies are scanned. The documents are indexed to an existing database used for managing contaminated sites. Internally the documents are accessed through this database and the public has access to these documents through the OneStop database.

Although the original motivation for the project was to address file storage problems, many other benefits were gained. The most obvious being that DES preserves our natural resources by reducing the amount of paper used. Public access to DES records is improved as consultants and the regulated community can review files on-line and eliminate trips to Concord. File integrity is improved and staff time for file maintenance is reduced.

For more on the Contaminated Sites Programs file conversion, please contact George.Lombardo@des.nh.gov.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Mike Wimsatt becomes new WMD director in June 2007

Michael Wimsatt, a veteran with over 19 years experience with the Waste Management Division, was unanimously confirmed by the Governor and Executive Council in June 2007 to be the new division director. Wimsatt spent over four years working on hazardous waste compliance and enforcement issues, and 15 years in hazardous waste site investigation and remediation with DES. Over the last eight years, he has coordinated the DES Brownfields Program. Wimsatt, a licensed professional geologist, earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from State University of New York at Syracuse and a master's degree in water resources engineering from University of New Hampshire.



Segments of the Ammonoosuc River are now under protection of the state's Rivers Management and Protection Program.

Ammonoosuc River comes under Designated River protection

The signing into law of HB 61 in the spring of 2007 brought segments of the Ammonoosuc River under protection of the state's Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The Rivers Management and Protection Act of 1988 (RSA 483) established the RMPP based on a two-tier approach to river management and protection: state designation of significant rivers and protection of instream values and local development and adoption of river corridor management plans to protect shorelines and adjacent lands.

The Ammonoosuc begins at the Lake of the Clouds on the western slopes of Mount Washington and flows approximately 60 miles west through the town of Carroll to Bethlehem Junction then north to Littleton and southwest through Lisbon, Landaff, and Bath to its confluence with the Connecticut River at Woodsville in the town of Haverhill. Its watershed drains an area of over 395 square miles. The entire Ammonoosuc River offers spectacular and varied scenic and cultural vistas. Designation of the Ammonoosuc River received a high level of public support during both the nomination and legislative hearing process. To read more about this beautiful river, please go to www.des.nh.gov/factsheets/r&l/rl-20.htm.

For more information about the N.H. River Man-

agement and Protection Program, contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, at (603) 271-8801.

Restoration plans for Cold River, Bowers Brook and Warren Brook following spring 2006 flooding

DES hosted informational meetings in November 2006 and March 2007 to discuss first, the draft assessment report and prioritized restoration sites for the Cold River, Bowers Brook and Warren Brook, and then, details of the restoration plan for the area impacted by the spring 2006 flooding. The meetings, which were held in Alstead, provided a summary of the methods used to develop the draft report and the restoration site. The project consultant and agency representatives were on hand to answer question at both sessions.

The March meeting provided an overview of the Phase 1 of the stabilization and restoration of Warren Brook. Phase 1 started just upstream of Cooper Hill Road and included a 2,400 foot stretch of the Warren Brook. This reach of Warren Brook was identified as the priority reach for restoration activities by the project partners, and parts of the design were constructed during 2007. The restoration master plan for Cold River, Bowers Brook and Warren Brook, also presented at the meeting, was based on the detailed assessment conducted in the summer of 2006. The presentation allowed landowners, agencies, and the affected communities to better understand how to implement necessary restoration and stabilization activities and work with existing river dynamics.

The restoration plan development is funded by DES, NH Department of Transportation, NH Fish and Game Department, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For more information about the meeting, please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, at (603) 271-8801 or scouture@des.state.nh.us.

Gulf of Maine Council releases 2007-2012 Action Plan

In early 2007, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations, including the State of New Hampshire, today an-

nounced the release of the 2007-2012 Action Plan for protection of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. The council works to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. The council organizes conferences and workshops, offers grants, conducts environmental monitoring and raises public awareness on the environmental health of the Gulf of Maine.

Detailed information about the council's activities, the action plan and the multi-year work plan are available at www.gulfofmaine.org.

Six auto salvage yards recognized as Certified Green Yards

Over the last fiscal year, DES recognized six auto salvage yards for becoming a Certified NH Green Yards, a distinction reserved for auto salvage yards that use exemplary environmental work practices. The process for becoming a "Certified NH Green Yard" is part of a pilot program developed by DES, working with the N.H. Auto & Truck Recyclers Association (NHATRA), to improve environmental performance at auto salvage yards and provide incentive for going beyond compliance.

The six businesses were Colony Used Auto Parts of Rochester, Dave's Automotive Enterprises of Marlborough, Hopi Corporation of Belmont, Tiny's Garage of Hudson, Bob's Heavy Equipment of Brentwood, and Dick's Truck Sales of Whitefield.

The NH Green Yards Program has been working with over 150 auto salvage yards throughout the state to improve environmental practices and to bring them into compliance with exiting state and federal environmental requirements. For information, go to www.des.nh.gov/SW/GreenYards or contact Pam Hoyt-Denison, NH Green Yards Program coordinator, at (603) 271-2938 or phoyt-denison@des.state.nh.us.

Report released on Suncook Village air quality

In response to a petition to examine air quality and related health effects in Suncook Village, the DES Environmental Health Program (EHP) completed a "Public Health Assessment for Ambient Air Quality in Suncook Village" in spring 2007. The petition expressed concern regarding emissions from Merrimack Station power plant in Bow.

The assessment concludes that ambient air in Suncook Village does not present a health hazard to the general population. During the two-year study period, the Suncook area was in compliance with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. There were infrequent days (or hours) when air pollution reached levels that could result in adverse health effects among asthmatics during outdoor exertion. These air pollution events fell into two categories: sulfur dioxide events associated primarily with emissions from Merrimack Station transported by strong northwest winds usually during winter; ozone and particulate matter events originating from regional and distant sources involving long-distance transport primarily by southerly winds in summer. A new law (RSA 125-O) passed by the New Hampshire Legislature in 2006 requires Merrimack Station to install new emissions controls, which should eliminate the possibility of any unhealthy sulfur dioxide levels in the future.

The report includes an evaluation of Suncook area air quality from 2004 to 2006, cancer incidence and hospital emergency room visits for respiratory conditions. Air quality and meteorological data in the report are primarily from the DES air monitoring station located on Exchange Street in Suncook. EHP prepared the report under its cooperative agreement with the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The Public Health Assessment can be accessed at www.des.nh.gov/ARD/EHP/ Suncook_Final_PHA.pdf, or call (603) 271-4664 or e-mail eabrams@des.state.nh.us to request a copy.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

State receives \$3.5 million for Environmental Health Tracking

In September of 2006, DES and NH Department of Health and Human Services received a five-year, \$3.5 million cooperative agreement to track environmentally-related issues such as asthma, cardio-vascular disease, cancer and birth outcomes has been awarded from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The first

year award of \$663,121 will initiate five years of support for this developing system.

Improved environmental health tracking will benefit state decision makers with better information, and local communities will benefit from more focused health and environmental data. When communities are better informed, they will be able to respond to environmental health concerns and protect public health.

New Hampshire already monitors infectious and chronic diseases, but this will be the first effort to track multiple environmental health issues in the state over time. This second phase of funding is being awarded to address gaps in environmental health data sets, and standardize them so they can better track trends over time and by location.

For more information, please contact Sherry Godlewski, environmental health educator, Air Resources Division at (603) 271-6801 or sgodlewski@des.state.nh.us.

EPA equipment grant assists DES efforts to monitor water quality

EPA awarded the DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program and several Volunteer Rivers Assessment Program groups with new equipment during a ceremony held in October of 2006 on World Water Monitoring Day. Using this equipment, volunteers will assess the water quality conditions of New Hampshire's lakes, rivers and estuaries with the data collected. Over the years, volunteers have been successful in raising awareness of failing septic systems, illicit discharges of sanitary sewerage, and nonpoint source runoff.

DES Watershed Assistance Grant Benefits Wason Pond in Chester

One of the towns that benefited from a DES Watershed Assistance Grant in 2006 included the Town of Chester. Chester completed shoreline restoration work at the town-owned Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Area with the assistance of local volunteers and a Watershed Assistance Grant for \$4,355.

The grant funds, volunteers and a local excavation company all supported the restoration of shoreline areas on Wason Pond. The property had

been previously used as a commercial campground prior to the town acquiring it in 2001. The shoreline had been severely impacted by heavy use of campsites, resulting in compacted soil and eroded banks. Wetlands were also impacted by the campground from roads and fill.

With grant funds, more than 750 native shrubs and trees were purchased from the New Hampshire State Nursery. In April, volunteers – many from local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops – spent a day planting the vegetation. The shore-side structures and more than 30 old sewer pipes were removed, largely through volunteer labor and equipment provided by Henry K. White & Son Excavating of Chester. Grass was sown in eroded areas, excavation to remediate a beach staining problem and wetlands reclamation work were also performed as part of the grant-funded project.

Town of Pittsfield Receives DES Septage Grant Funds

In August 2006, DES awarded the town of Pittsfield \$33,504 for its effort in creating innovative alternative septage treatment. These funds represent the first monies from the newly created state funded septage disposal grant program, referred to as the State Aid Grant Plus (SAG Plus). The award was equal to 50 percent of eligible costs incurred while conducting its pilot study.

Increasing septage disposal capacity is important to the local residents and to the environment because it helps keep the costs associated with the proper maintenance of a septic system affordable. Approximately 80 percent of new development in the state relies on septic systems to treat sanitary wastes. Septic system failure poses a threat of contamination to the state's water resources and creates a public health problem. Additionally, this facility is important for New Hampshire because it expands our overall septage disposal capacity.

All New Hampshire municipalities have a statutory responsibility to provide or assure access to septage disposal for their residents. The SAG Plus was created through the efforts of the Septage Task Force and the New Hampshire Legislature as a proactive method of creating much needed additional disposal capacity.

For more information, please contact Ray Gordon, DES Septage Coordinator, at (603) 271-3571 or rgordon@des.state.nh.us.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

WRBP presented with 2006 EPA National Award of Excellence

In the fall 2006, the Winnipesaukee River Basin Program was notified that it won the National First Place Award in the Large Secondary Plant Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Excellence category, as part of the annual 2006 U.S. EPA Clean Water Act Recognition Awards selection process. The WRBP qualified to compete with the nine other EPA regional winners for the national title after receiving top honors in EPA's Region I competition last year.

Areas in which the WRBP excelled include: (1) an outstanding compliance record - no discharge (NPDES) violations in nearly three years; (2) outstanding utilization and reliance of automation to save time, energy and money; (3) implementation of a comprehensive and high quality equipment maintenance program; (4) development of an effective and proactive process control and field monitoring program; and (5) outstanding residuals management program.

The awards were established to recognize the staff of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants for their commitment to improve water quality not only with outstanding operation and maintenance, but also through a combination of continued permit compliance, effective financial management, and on-going operator training.

For information about WRBP, please go to www.des.nh.gov/Winni/.

Air monitoring program receives high marks from EPA

New Hampshire's air monitoring program received high marks from EPA for operations at its Manchester location. EPA "through the probe" (TTP) audits conducted there in August 2006 for four gaseous parameters showed superior results. The parameters tested included ozone, nitrogen

oxides, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide. TTP audits are relatively new and test the entire monitoring system – the air collection manifold outside the building, the transfer lines that bring the air into the equipment inside the building, and the specific instrumentation analysis. According to EPA's TTP audit contractor, the results at Manchester were some of the best he had ever seen! In addition to the Manchester audits, EPA ozone audits at the Lebanon and Keene monitoring stations also showed exceptional accuracy with an average deviation in both cases of less than 1 percent. Congratulations to the DES air monitoring staff for protecting public health and the environment!

DES PrintSTEP Program collects accolades

In March 2007, The US Environmental Protection Agency presented the DES Printer's Simplified Total Environmental Partnership (PrintSTEP) program with its "Office of Compliance Partnership Award." PrintSTEP is an alternative multi-media flexible regulatory system for printers. The goal of PrintSTEP is to help the printing industry and the public achieve cleaner, cheaper and smarter environmental protection through the creation of a simpler regulatory framework.

The award was presented to Rudy Cartier and Tara Olson of the Small Business Technical Assistance Program for their tireless efforts, over several years, in designing the state's PrintSTEP program and reaching out to the target community with one-on-one comprehensive technical and compliance assistance. EPA intends to highlight the success of the New Hampshire PrintSTEP program with other state agencies around the country that wish to develop alternative regulatory programs.

DES Wastewater Engineering Bureau receives national award from EPA

The DES Wastewater Operations Section was named recipient of the 2006 EPA National Clean Water Act Award for State Technical Assistance. The award was presented in conjunction with the Most Improved Plant Award category presented to the Warner Village Water District for DES's on-site technical assistance and training for the facility and all wastewater treatment facilities throughout the

state. "It is indicative of the dedication which DES staff continues to serve the public to protect water quality and public health, as well a team effort involving local, state and federal officials," added Robert Varney, EPA New England regional director. DES staff recognized for this achievement include John Bush, Bureau Administrator, George Neill, Operations Section Supervisor, Mary Jane Meier, Wes Ripple, Tom White, Marie Polichronopoulos, and Beth Malcolm.

NH Brownfields celebrates 10th anniversary

Building on sound legislation and supported by EPA Brownfields funding, DES's Brownfields Program is a collaborative effort with our federal and local community partners. The Brownfields Program, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in the fall of 2006, reflects a new model in environmental protection that is locally-based, forges strong public-private partnerships and promotes innovation and creativity. This approach empowers communities to ensure that local solutions are created to solve local problems. EPA estimates that every acre of reclaimed brownfields saves four and a-half acres of green space and, on average, every green space has doubled the value of surrounding properties.

DES's Brownfields Program began in 1996, when the NH legislature passed the Brownfields Covenant Program law, which addresses the important issue of liability for contamination. Since then, the DES Brownfields Program has evolved to include additional program elements to address each of the barriers to successful redevelopment. These include the Brownfields Assessment program, which



Revitalized Concord Lumber site is now the site of a Courtyard Marriott and the Grappone Conference Center.

provides site assessment and cleanup planning services; the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, which provides low cost financing for brownfields cleanups; the Brownfields Cleanup Grant program, which provides grants to finance site cleanups; and the Brownfields Grantee Assistance program, which provides technical assistance to communities that receive federal Brownfields grants.

For more information about the Brownfields Program in New Hampshire, go to www.des.nh.gov/BrownfieldsNH.

Hazardous Waste Coordinator Cert Program celebrates its 5th year

In May 2003, the Hazardous Waste Coordinator Certification Program was launched for full quantity generators. An FQG is a facility that generates 220 pounds or more of hazardous waste in a month. The HWCC Program was designed to train industry in state rules and federal regulations of hazardous waste management. The underlying premise is the belief that having a trained hazardous waste coordinator on staff at the facility would lead to increased compliance. Companies would no longer be out-of-compliance because of lack of knowledge of regulatory requirements.

New Hampshire is the first state in the nation to take such a proactive approach at teaching and certifying its hazardous waste generators on an annual basis. Since the first class in May 2003, the HWCC Program has conducted an average of 18 full-day training classes annually. Through 2006, nearly 2,850 attendees had attended one or more of the training classes. Due to the success of this program, DES inspectors have seen an improvement in compliance at FQGs, an increase in communication from hazardous waste generators about hazardous waste issues, an improvement in report quality, and a more accurate assessment of the number of facilities that generate hazardous waste as well as the quantity of waste generated.

To learn more about the Hazardous Waste Coordinator Certification Program, contact Tim Prospert at (603) 271-7837 or tprospert@des.state.nh.us, or Susan Francesco at (603) 271-2967 or sfrancesco@des.state.nh.us.

KEY LEGISLATION and RULES

State enacts burning ban on C&D debris

Near the end of the fiscal year, HB 427 and HB 428 were passed, which will enact a permanent ban on the combustion of the wood component of construction and demolition debris (C&D). These bills mark a very important first step in an overall effort to bring a more comprehensive approach to New Hampshire's management of solid waste, including C&D debris. In the long-term, the most desirable outcome for these wastes is their reduction, reuse and recycling - the "3Rs." To spearhead this effort, DES has formed a C&D 3R Task Force that is charged with developing recommendations for concrete action steps that can be promptly put into practice. The C&D 3R Task Force includes trade associations, companies, citizen and environmental groups, municipalities, other governmental organizations, as well as members of the Legislature, all of whom have come together in true New Hampshire fashion to build consensus around practical, common sense New Hampshire solutions. Smaller subcommittee groups will be formed to address the more troublesome C&D components as well as the economics, market barriers, and health issues related to C&D components. The task force expects to report its initial conclusions and recommendations by late 2007.

For more information on the task force or other C&D debris disposal information may contact Mike Guilfoy at (603) 271-2945 for further information.

Changes to New Hampshire's shoreland protection law

In June of 2007, the legislature enacted important amendments to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA). The existing CSPA provides protection to the state's public waters by establishing a 150 foot forested buffer area as well as restricted use areas within 250 feet of lakes, large ponds and our state's largest rivers. These amendments enhance the current CSPA and were based on recommendations from a legislative commission convened in 2005 to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the statute.

The changes, effective April 1, 2008, are broad in scope and are designed to strike a balance between



Native trees and vegetation help to control erosion, promote stormwater infiltration, moderate near shore surface water temperature and other essential ecologic services

the desires of shoreland property owners and the need to protect our shoreland resource. The amendments establish a permit program for construction, excavation and filling activities within the protected shoreland, a 50 foot waterfront buffer in which vegetation removal is restricted and pesticides and herbicides are prohibited, and impervious surface limitations. An additional 1,391 miles of river will come under the protection of the CSPA as a result of the adoption of the New Hampshire Hydrography Dataset for stream order determination. All rivers designated under the state's Rivers Management Act, including the Saco and Pemigewasset Rivers, will now come under the protection of the CSPA. Other changes to the CSPA (see box above) were made to clarify provisions related to vertical expansion, shoreline frontage requirements, a statewide primary building setback, and restrictions related to impervious surfaces.

To promote broad public understanding of, and compliance with, the new CSPA provisions, DES expects to enlist the assistance of many of our partners and stakeholders to develop and implement a major outreach effort to educate the public, contractors, municipalities and other interested parties. We all have an interest in the long-term integrity of our public waters. Through the CSPA and the stewardship efforts of shoreland property owners, we can ensure that future development of the shoreline protects water quality and the quality of life on our state's water bodies.

For more information please visit the DES Shoreland website at www.des.nh.gov/cspa.

State bans disposal of TVs and computer monitors in landfills/incinerators

To remove a significant source of lead from the environment, a ban on the disposal of televisions and computer monitors in the state's landfills and incinerators went into effect July 1. Most towns and cities in the state have electronics recycling programs in place and recently Staples has announced that it will recycle some types of electronic waste at its stores. There are also a number of commercial recycling centers available to state residents, which are listed on the DES website at www.des.nh.gov/SWTAS/comp_recyclers.htm.

New Hampshire residents should contact their local disposal facility or the manufacturer of the equipment to determine the best option for recycling their monitors and televisions. For additional information about the disposal ban, please call Don Maurer, supervisor, DES Solid Waste Technical Assistance Section, at (603) 271-3713.

Mercury bill signed into law

In early June of 2007, Gov. Lynch signed into law HB 907, relative to the sale and distribution of certain mercury-added products. The law prohibits the sale of certain types of mercury-added products, including manometers, barometers, thermometers and various other measuring devices, switches, relays and thermostats. Certain products, such as those specified by a federal requirement, are exempt.

There is also a built-in exemption process for products that have no feasible non-mercury alternative available. The sales prohibition on the first "wave" of products, mainly measuring devices, will take effect on January 1, 2008. Switches, relays and thermostats sales will be restricted as of July 1, 2008. This DES- requested bill was first introduced in the 2000 session, so its passage marks several years of work in this area and brings New Hampshire law more in line with the other states in our region.

The Renewable Energy Act –renewable portfolio standard

The Renewable Energy Act is an example of the real progress we are making in New Hampshire by focusing on working together to build a better fu-

ture for our people. This legislation, by creating a renewable portfolio standard and incentives to energy companies to use more renewable fuel sources, is a key component in reaching our goal.

Increasing renewable energy use will increase New Hampshire's and our nation's energy independence, lessening our need for foreign oil and for expensive natural gas. In fact, a study by the University of New Hampshire estimated that by reducing natural gas consumption, this law could help reduce total electric costs in New Hampshire by millions, and over time it could bring \$16 million of renewable energy investment incentives to New Hampshire.

This law could lead to the development of new wind, biomass and geothermal plants in New Hampshire. Increasing renewable energy will create jobs right here in New Hampshire by expanding uses for our wood products, in building clean power plants, and in research and development.

Our state is fortunate to have beautiful landscapes and clean waters. Increasing renewable energy use will also help protect our state's special environment and help stem global warming.

This new law will allow us to identify and implement energy alternatives so that we are not as reliant on coal and other polluting fossil fuels.

By 2025, this law will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 580,000 tons - that is the equivalent of taking 160,000 cars off the road. The Renewable Energy Act is a victory for our state's economy, our environment and our future energy independence.

For more information on RPS policies and other energy issues, contact Joanne Morin, DES Energy Manager, at (603) 271-5552 or jmorin@des.state.nh.us.

Tidal energy legislation

Increasing interest in renewable energy sources has put tidal energy, or using the tides to generate electric power, as one of the alternatives to traditional energy sources, both nationally and in New Hampshire. In June 2007, Gov. Lynch signed HB 694 (Chapter 222, Laws of 2007) establishing a commission to study the feasibility of tidal power generation under the Little Bay and General Sullivan



Tidal turbines, which capture both incoming and outgoing tides.

Bridges, located in Dover and Newington.

Tidal energy is a renewable resource produced by the tides, which are predictable and don't produce pollution. Harnessing the tides for energy has evolved from the 1960s dam-like structures that only provided energy during out-going tides, to today's modern underwater windmills, which capture both incoming and out-going tides. However, potential environmental impacts, as well as impacts to commercial fisheries, shipping and recreational uses, make it a complicated energy alternative that involves an intense regulatory process. The advantages of tidal power generation under bridges include less chance of fishing gear entanglement and fewer impediments to navigation, according to Rep. Thomas Fargo, D-Dover, who was the bill's sponsor and is co-chair of the newly formed commission.

The commission's primary duty is to identify and collect technical and sociological data, and investigate the regulatory requirements necessary to determine the feasibility of building a system for tidal power generation under the bridges. The commission is required to make an initial report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation by November 1, 2007, and make a final report by November 1, 2008. Kenneth Baldwin, representing UNH, serves as co-chair with Rep. Fargo, and Ted Diers of the DES Coastal Program serves

as vice chair. The Coastal Program serves as the lead state agency.

The Coastal Program and the Office of Energy and Planning took the first step in bringing together local, state and federal stakeholders to share information and learn about this technology when they co-hosted a tidal energy workshop in February 2007. The workshop was held in light of two preliminary permit applications before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for tidal energy projects in the Piscataqua River.

For more on the commission and the state's efforts on tidal energy, please go to www.des.nh.gov/coastal/ocean_policy.html.

Contaminated Sites Rules Revised

By Gretchen Hamel, Administrator, Legal Unit
Currently, DES has two sets of rules that specify
requirements and procedures for the notification,
reporting, investigation, remediation, and management of sites where discharges of contaminants
have occurred: Env-Wm 1600, Standards for Reporting and Remediation of Oil Discharges, and
Env-Wm 1403, Groundwater Management and
Groundwater Release Detection Permits.

Env-Wm 1600 establishes requirements and procedures for responding to and remediating oil discharges, including notification, initial response actions, initial site characterizations, investigation due to discovery of a discharge from unknown sources, site investigations, remedial action plan, soil clean up standards, soil storage, treatment and disposal criteria, and site closure criteria.

Env-Wm 1403 establishes requirements and procedures for responding to and remediating discharges of regulated contaminants, including ambient groundwater quality standards, site investigation, remedial action, groundwater management permits, groundwater release detection permits, water quality and groundwater monitoring wells, certificates of completion, and certificates of no further action.

In order to clarify and streamline compliance with these requirements and as part of DES's larger effort to redesignate its rules into new subtitles, the two existing rules are being readopted and reorganized into two new chapters: Env-Or 600 for man-

agement of contaminated sites, and Env-Or 700 for groundwater release detection permits required under RSA 485-C:13.

Env-Or 600 consolidates all of the requirements from Env-Wm 1600 and Env-Wm 1403 for reporting discharges of contaminants (including oil), and for the investigation, remediation, and management of sites where discharges of contaminants (including oil) have occurred. The cleanup standards for soil and groundwater that now will be in Env-Or 600 include updated standards based on the most recent public health information. Env-Or 600 will incorporate the Groundwater Management Permit program previously in Env-Wm 1403, and will consolidate the provisions previously in both Env-Wm 1403 and Env-Wm 1600 relative to the issuance of Certificates of Completion or Certificates of No Further Action. Additional revisions are proposed to clarify the rules, including clarification of which documents must be prepared by professional engineers or professional geologists.

Env-Or 600 also is proposed to include procedures and criteria for establishing activity and use restrictions associated with the Brownfields legislation (RSA 146-F), a program that encourages the voluntary cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties.

As a result of the reorganization of the above-noted provisions, Env-Or 700 will include only the Groundwater Release Detection Permit program requirements, which currently are in Env-Wm 1403 and are not related to contaminated sites. This program establishes requirements and procedures for groundwater monitoring for early detection of possible groundwater impacts associated with the activities listed in RSA 485-C. The focus of the program will not change under the proposed rules. The proposed rules have been revised for clarity and include organizational modifications to make the rules more readable.

Interim rules adopted for Aquatic Resource Mitigation fund

People applying for a Wetlands permit have a new option available to them when addressing necessary mitigation requirements of their application. The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM) authorizes the collection of mitigation funds in lieu of other forms of wetland mitigation for certain small projects. The ARM program was authorized by legislation that was signed into law by Gov. Lynch in June 2006.

Traditionally, compensation for wetland impacts is achieved through creating a new wetland, restoring a former wetland site, or protecting a high-quality aquatic resource by preserving adjacent upland habitat. Most wetland mitigation is still done by the person getting the permit, and the mitigation effort usually takes place on or near the site of the proposed development. Some studies have shown that many of the mitigation efforts fail to offset lost wetland functions.

The ARM fund can be spent on projects that address specific needs of a watershed where the permitted wetland impacts are occurring. This type of process, more commonly referred to as an in-lieu fee program, is ideal for projects that have difficulty in locating an appropriate mitigation site. In such cases, the applicant would pay into the ARM fund where such fees are pooled and contribute to ongoing restoration or creation efforts, or improve upon known preservation projects that would have immediate environmental results.

With the payment of the agreed-upon fee, some or all of the permittee's responsibilities for wetlands mitigation shift to the ARM fund. The permittee is not responsible for wetland construction, wetland acquisition, stewardship and monitoring, and can concentrate on the development project at hand.

By pooling funds from many projects, the ARM fund has the potential for long-term environmental results from wetland mitigation that considers watershed goals, assists conservation efforts in recognizing green infrastructure plans of a town or region, and has the ability to target important and vulnerable wetlands in a region.

For more information on the ARM fund, please contact Lori Sommer, DES Wetland Bureau, at (603) 271-4059.

LEGAL SETTLEMENTS

ExxonMobil settles with state

This past year, DES settled a case with ExxonMobil for more than \$2.04 million for reimbursement to the Oil Discharge and Disposal Cleanup Fund (ODD Fund). The ODD Fund, authorized in 1990, provides financial insurance for the cleanup of releases from underground and above-ground motor fuel storage tanks. ExxonMobil, which currently has dozens of gasoline stations in New Hampshire, requested and received reimbursements over the last several years when it had existing insurance coverage. At the time ExxonMobil filed for ODD Fund reimbursement, there was uncertainty whether it would be able to collect on its insurance claims. After the company received a large insurance payout as settlement for nationwide environmental insurance claims, the state stepped in to ensure that ExxonMobil complied with the excess insurance requirements of the ODD Fund.

The settlement refunds the ODD Fund for most of the money reimbursed to ExxonMobil since the inception of the ODD Fund 17 years ago. Although many state reimbursement funds are likely to have similar potential claims, only three settlements with ExxonMobil have been reached to date. It is noteworthy that New Hampshire recovered a significantly larger percentage of its claim than the two other settlements that were obtained by Massachusetts and South Carolina. These monies will help to shore up the ODD Fund balance, which has a backlog of pending claims.

Superior Court orders Pittsburg landowners to pay penalties for deliberately violating Shoreland laws

DES and the Attorney General's office were pleased with a decision handed down by the Coos County Superior Court in November of 2006 that Pittsburg landowners Rose and Joseph Marino must pay penalties for violating the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, the Dredge and Fill in Wetlands Act, and the Water Pollution Control Act. The Court ordered the Marinos to pay penalties totaling as much as \$65,000 for constructing a single-family residence within 50 feet of the shore-

line of Back Lake and for altering the bank of Back Lake without state approval. The ruling may also result in removal of all or part of the existing structure. The ruling comes in a civil enforcement action filed by the state in December 2004.

Settlement with Waste Management paying for Dover Arena energy efficiency upgrades

DES announced this past April that the City of Dover will be using funds from a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to install energy efficient lighting at the city's arena facility. The SEP funds are the result of a settlement agreement reached between the State and Waste Management of New Hampshire Inc. for alleged violations at the Turnkey Landfill in Rochester.

The settlement with Waste Management includes a total amount of \$1.4 million for SEPs, of which \$100,000 is set aside for the City of Dover and \$100,000 for the City of Rochester to fund local air pollution-related projects such as energy efficiency projects, clean fleet programs, renewable energy, school indoor air quality studies, or other programs related to the environment.

Dover will receive \$51,621 of the SEP money for a project totaling \$65,821 to replace existing lighting at the Arena with more energy efficient lighting.

The project's remaining cost of \$14,200 will come from through a statewide energy efficiency program facilitated by Public Service of New Hampshire When complete, the project will save the city about 210,000 kilowatt hours of electricity and approximately \$22,000 per year. Over the next 15 years, the new lighting system is estimated to reduce associated air emissions of carbon dioxide by 3,480,000 pounds, sulfur dioxide by 6,400 pounds, and nitrogen oxides by 180 pounds

The project involves leveraging funds from New Hampshire's statewide energy efficiency programs, which are funded by a small charge on customers' monthly electric bills. These funds are earmarked for statewide energy efficiency programs for low-income, residential, commercial, and municipal customers. The city was able to leverage these additional funds in the amount of \$14,200 for rebates toward the purchase of the more energy efficient lighting.

The remaining Waste Management settlement amount of \$1.2 million is earmarked for a project to pipe methane gas from Turnkey Landfill to Durham to fuel an energy saving cogeneration heating plant at UNH.

For further information, please contact Pamela Monroe, DES Compliance Administrator, at (603) 271-0882.

Summaries of NHDES-related Environmental Legislation

Adopted in the 2007 New Hampshire Legislative Session

HR9

Supporting the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

- Supports the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
- Declares New Hampshire will lead by example in energy efficiency to protect public health, future economic growth, the environment and taxpayer dollars.
- Supports the use of alternative sources of energy, including the support of the "25 by 25" goal, whereby renewable energy will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in state by 2025.

HB 54 Chapt. 273 Effective: July 3, 2007

Establishing a commission to study automobile recycling issues.

- Establishes a commission to study the adequacy of the state's regulatory system and the industry infrastructure currently used to recycle and dispose of end-of-life motor vehicles.
- The commissioner of DES, or a designee, is appointed to the commission.
- An interim report of its findings is due on or before November 1, 2007 and a final report on or before November 1, 2008.

HB 61 Chapt. 66 Effective: August 10, 2007

Designating segments of the Ammonoosuc River into the rivers management protection program.

• Designates segments of the Ammonoosuc River for protection under the state's Rivers Management and Protection Program.

HB 72 Chapt. 5 Effective: July 1, 2007

Relative to the payment of municipal sewage assessments.

- Requires municipalities served by the Winnipesaukee regional sewage disposal facilities to pay assessments for additional facilities annually on July 15.
- Changes the fiscal quarter in which adjustments are made for charges billed to municipalities served by the Winnipesaukee regional sewage disposal facilities.

HB 98 Chapt. 29 Effective: May 14, 2007

Relative to the situation of landfills on land owned by municipalities.

 Subjects waste disposal facilities on land owned and operated by one municipality within another municipality to the same land use regulations as a private entity.

HB 107 Chapt. 6 Effective: July 1, 2007

Authorizing towns to charge property owners for solid waste removal.

- Authorizes towns to charge property owners for solid waste removal.
- No impact to DES.

HB 144 Chapt. 72 Effective: June 11, 2007

Relative to operation of boats on Spectacle Pond.

 Removes a date restriction on and clarifies the permissible use of petroleum-powered boats by contiguous property owners on Spectacle Pond.

HB 152 Chapt. 59 Effective: July 31, 2007

Relative to public access to meeting minutes.

Requires minutes of meetings under the right-to-know law to be available for public inspection
five business days after the public meeting. Current law requires such minutes to be available
within 144 hours of the public meeting.

HB 216 Chapt. 31 Effective: May 14, 2007

Establishing a commission to study the causes, effects, and remediation of siltation in the Great Bay Estuary.

- Establishes a commission to study the historic and current sources of siltation in the Great Bay Estuary; the impacts upon the aquatic and riparian ecosystem; recreational, social and commercial uses of estuarine waters; methods to minimize additional siltation; and optimal means of remediation.
- One representative from DES, appointed by the commissioner.
- An interim report of its findings is due on or before November 30, 2087 and a final report on or before November 30, 2009.

HB 219 Chapt. 209 Effective: August 24, 2007

Relative to the membership of the wetlands council.

 Adds one additional member from the public to the Wetlands Council, who shall be a farm or forest landowner.

HB 252-FN Chapt. 211 Effective: August 24, 2007

Relative to exemptions from the permitting process for excavating and dredging.

- Exempts the installation of temporary seasonal docks on lakes or ponds that are not close to areas designated as prime wetlands.
- This bill also prohibits the issuance of a permit for activity within 100 feet of a wetland area.

HB 318 Chapt. 169 Effective: August 17, 2007

Relative to large groundwater withdrawals.

• Limits the withdrawal of groundwater to the cumulative amount of 57,600 gallons from a single property or place of business, regardless of the number of wells on that property.

HB 319 Chapt. 278 Effective: September 1, 2007

Relative to permits for projects funded through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

 Allows DES to issue permits for certain necessary projects funded through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Services.

HB 383 Chapt. 267 Effective: I. Section 11, July 1, 2007;

II. Section 12, as provided in section 13;

III. Section 13, June 29, 2007;

IV. Remainder April 1, 2008.

Relative to waterfront buffer and woodland buffer requirements in the comprehensive shoreland protection act.

- Adds a waterfront buffer requirement and modifies the natural woodland buffer requirement of the CSPA
- Repeals the authorization for certain municipalities to maintain defined primary building lines.

HB 416 Chapt. 279 Effective: I. Section 1, January 1, 2008; II. Remainder July 3, 2007

Relative to mercury reduction and establishing a committee to study methods of improving the recycling rate in NH for mercury-added thermostats.

- Bans the disposal of mercury-added products in solid waste landfills, transfer stations or incinerators.
- Establishes a legislative committee to study methods of improving the recycling rate in New Hampshire for mercury-added thermostats.
- DES is not named as a member of the committee, however it is expected that DES will be consulted by the committee to provide information for a report to be filed by November 1, 2007.

HB 427 Chapt. 127 Effective: June 12, 2007

Defining construction & demolition debris and certified waste-derived product, and relative to DES certifying waste-derived products of the wood component of C&D debris.

- Defines construction and demolition debris.
- Defines certified waste-derived product.
- Prohibits DES from issuing a certification as a waste-derived product for the wood component of construction and demolition debris.

HB 428 Chapt. 128 Effective: I. Section 2, January 1, 2011 II Remainder January 1, 2008

Prohibiting the combustion of the wood component of construction and demolition debris and defining C&D debris and transfer station.

- Prohibits the combustion of the wood component of construction and demolition debris.
- Defines construction and demolition debris.
- Defines transfer station.

HB 439 Chapt. 138 Effective: August 17, 2007

Relative to certain rulemaking authority of the commissioner of environmental services.

• Makes certain changes to the rulemaking authority of the commissioner of DES in response to an audit by the legislative budget assistant.

HB 457 Chapt. 218 Effective: August 24, 2007

Allowing local governing bodies to restrict lawn watering during declared droughts.

Allows local governing bodies to restrict lawn watering during declared droughts.

HB 458 Chapt. 55 Effective: July 21, 2007

Relative to the exemption of replacement or redundant wells from the large groundwater withdrawal permitting process.

• Exempts replacement or redundant wells from the large groundwater withdrawal permitting process.

HB 459 Chapt. 89 Effective: December 8, 2007

Relative to the identification of wells and monitoring wells.

- Requires water well contractors and technical drillers of monitoring wells to supply specific information to the Water Well Board.
- Limits the availability of information or records compiled in the records of wells.

HB 472-FN Chapt. 219 Effective: July 1, 2007

Increasing fees for hazardous waste management and contaminated site cleanup, and changing reporting requirements.

- Increases fees on hazardous waste generators and certain Brownfields program fees.
- Changes reporting requirements for various waste activities.

• DES will be required to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature by October 1 of each year relative to the activities and finances of the hazardous waste cleanup fund.

HB 491 Chapt. 250 Effective: June 29, 2007

Establishing a public health improvement services council.

- Establishes a public health improvement services council to establish and monitor the implementation of a public health improvement plan.
- The commissioner of DES, or designee, shall be a member of the council.
- The council shall file an interim report by January 1, 2008, and a final report by November 1, 2009.

HB 533 Chapt. 326 Effective: I. Sections 1-3, September 14, 2007 II. Remainder July 16, 2007

Relative to Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification requirements for state contracts and establishing a commission to recommend a comprehensive program for increasing the use of passenger restraints in NH.

- Requires bidders on state and local building and public works contracts over \$100,000 to certify that the employees have completed an OSHA construction safety program.
- May lead to more requests for training by the Consultation Program.

HB 549 Chapt. 177 Effective: August 17, 2007

Relative to accepting a purchase and sale agreement on developed waterfront property.

• Allows a buyer and a seller to execute a purchase and sale agreement for developed waterfront property using a septic disposal system before a site assessment study is available.

HB 648 Chapt. 179 Effective: I. Section 6, January 1, 2008 II. Remainder June 18, 2007

Establishing a commission to develop a comprehensive flood management plan and requiring a no wake order on Silver Lake at a certain water level.

- Establishes a commission to develop a comprehensive flood management plan.
- The commissioner of DES, or designee, shall be a member of the commission.
- A progress report shall be filed by December 1, 2007, and a final flood control plan by June 8, 2008.
- Requires the Division of Safety to institute a no wake order on Silver Lake whenever the DES gauging station on the lake measures 467.0 feet or more above sea level, and shall remain until the measure falls below 467.0 feet.

HB 663-FN Chapt. 269 Effective: I. Section 1, April 1, 2008; II. Sections 7-8, July 1, 2011; III. Remainder July 1, 2007.

Relative to the protected shoreland permitting process and establishing and funding positions within the DES.

- Requires a permit prior to construction, excavation, or filling activities within the protected shoreland and establishes a permit application fee.
- Limits the purposes for which the fee shall be expended.
- Establishes new positions within DES. DES may hire up to six additional staff positions to implement RSA 483-B and to perform education and outreach.
- Requires the state treasurer to transfer certain funds from the general fund to the wetlands and shorelands review fund.

HB 664-FN Chapt. 329 Effective: July 1, 2007

Relative to annual dam registration and permit application fees and authorizing the city of Manchester to establish a stormwater utility.

- Increases annual dam registration and filing fees to cover the cost of inspecting existing dams and permitting the construction or reconstruction of dams.
- Authorizes the city of Manchester to establish a stormwater utility.

HB 672 Chapt. 252 Effective: June 28, 2007

Establishing a commission to study requirements for safe and secure landfills.

- Establishes a commission to study requirements for safe and secure landfills.
- The commissioner of DES, or designee, shall be a member of the commission.
- An preliminary report shall be filed by November 1, 2009, and a final report by November 1, 2011.

HB 688 Chapt. 181 Effective: August 17, 2007

Establishing the council on the relationship between public health and the environment.

- Establishes the council on the relationship between public health and the environment.
- The commissioner of DES, or designee, shall be a member of the council.
- The council shall make an annual report beginning January 1, 2009.
- Requires the Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services to review the council every two years to determine its effectiveness.

HB 689 Chapt. 283 Effective: July 3, 2007

Establishing a commission to study production and distribution of biodiesel fuel in NH.

- Establishes a commission to study production and distribution of biodiesel fuel in NH.
- The commissioner of DES, or designee, shall be a member of the commission.
- The commission shall report by November 1, 2007.

HB 694 Chapt. 222 Effective: June 25, 2007

Establishing a commission to study the feasibility of tidal power generation under the Little Bay and General Sullivan Bridges, in Dover.

- Establishes a commission to study the feasibility of tidal power generation in Dover, including
 but not limited to permitting standards, the public's attitudes toward the project, the
 environmental and wildlife impacts, costs and benefits, and identifying the lead state agency to
 coordinate the efforts of the commission.
- The commissioner of DES, or designee, shall be a member of the commission.
- An initial report shall be filed by November 1, 2007 and final report by November 1, 2008.

HB 699 Chapt. 253 Effective: June 28, 2007

Establishing a commission to study methods and costs of sewage, sludge, and septage disposal.

- Establishes a commission to study methods and costs of sewage, sludge, and septage disposal.
- One person from the Water Division and one from the Waste Management Division, appointed by the DES commissioner, shall be members of the commission.
- An interim report is required by November 1, 2007 and final report shall be filed by November 1, 2008.

HB 710 Chapt. 254 Effective: June 28, 2007

Establishing a commission to study issues relative to the practice of leasing state-owned real estate on the shores of public waters.

- Establishes a commission to study issues relative to the practice of leasing state-owned real estate on the shores of public waters.
- One representative from DES; plus, one representative each from the Lakes Management Advisory Committee, the Rivers Management Advisory Committee, the Public Water Access Advisory Board, as well as others.

 An interim report is required by November 1, 2007 and final report shall be filed by November 1, 2008.

HB 722 Chapt. 285 Effective: September 1, 2007

Relative to the rivers management protection program.

• Includes watershed areas in planning for river management.

HB 768 Chapt. 226 Effective: August 24, 2007

Relative to voluntary registration with the Eastern Climate Registry.

- Encourages sources of greenhouse gases to register with the Eastern Climate Registry.
- DES shall work with other states to expand upon the Registry.
- DES shall prepare an annual report for the Legislature summarizing the state's participation in the Registry.
- DES will need to modify rules to implement this change and work out transition between our existing registry and The Climate Registry.
- DES must continue to participate on the Board of Directors for The Climate Registry (Bob Scott is the named Director).

HB 812 Chapt. 287 Effective: July 1, 2007

Relative to certain exceptions to limits on land application of septage and sludge.

• Permanently exempts certain uses of land application of septage and sludge within certain distances of natural, rural, rural-community, and community rivers.

HB 846 Chapt. 38 Effective: July 13, 2007

Transferring certain land in the town of Stoddard from the Trust for Public Land to the fish and game dept.

• Transfers the outlet dam, water rights and the 2.5-acre car-top boat launch access area at Robb Reservoir in Stoddard from the Trust for Public Land to F&G.

HB 873-FN Chapt. 26 Effective: I. Sections 1-5, July 10, 2007 II. Remainder May 11, 2007

Establishing minimum renewable standards for energy portfolios.

- Establishes minimum electric renewable portfolio standards.
- Requires the PUC to make reports to the general court.
- Requires the use of renewable energy certificates.
- Requires the office of energy and planning to conduct a study of incentives to promote thermal renewable energy.

HB 907-FN Chapt. 105 Effective: August 10, 2007

Relative to the sale and distribution and disposal of certain mercury-added products.

- Restricts the sale and distribution of certain mercury-added products/product categories.
- Manufacturers of these products may apply for an exemption from the commissioner of DES.

SB 68 Chapt. 259 Effective: July 1, 2007

Making an appropriation to the DES to implement the NH estuaries project's comprehensive conservation and management plan.

 Makes an appropriation in the sum of \$1 for each year in the biennium ending June 30, 2009 to the DES to implement the NH estuaries project's comprehensive conservation and management plan.

SB 71 Chapt. 308 Effective: September 11, 2007

Relative to setback requirements for new landfills located near designated rivers.

• Increases the setback requirements for new landfills located near designated rivers, making the rural rivers protection similar to the current natural river protection language.

SB 99 Chapt. 113 Effective: August 10, 2007

Relative to the terms for payment in lieu of taxes for renewable generation facilities.

Allows for voluntary agreements for payment in lieu of taxes for renewable generation facilities
to be for the period the parties agree is necessary for the financing of the project.

SB 111 Chapt. 233 Effective: August 24, 2007

Permitting a dam to be constructed on Lake Ivanhoe in the town of Wakefield.

Authorizes the town of Wakefield to construct a dam at the natural outlet of Lake Ivanhoe.

SB 140 Chapt. 364 Effective: July 17, 2007

Relative to transmission upgrades, the process for siting renewable generation facilities, and the study of demand response programs & distributed generation.

- Defines "renewable energy facility."
- Extends the powers of the site evaluation committee, of which the DES commissioner chairs.
- Establishes time frames for reviewing applications for renewable energy facilities.
- Expands the duties of the state energy policy commission.
- An interim report shall be filed by December 1, 2007 and final report shall be filed by December 1, 2008.

SB 143 Chapt. 341 Effective: July 1, 2007

Naming Jericho Mountain state park and establishing ATV and trail bike trails in such park.

- Names Jericho Mountain state park in Berlin.
- Allows waivers of certain criteria in the evaluation process for establishment of ATV and trail bike trails in such park.
- DES, in agreement with F&G and DRED, may authorize site specific waivers impacting water quality when certain criteria are met.

SB 204-FN Chapt. 346 Effective: July 1, 2007

Relative to collection of debts owed the state.

- Allows state agencies and departments to refer to the attorney general any uncollected debt owed to the state for collection.
- Allows state agencies to seek collection of debts in small claims court, subject to the supervision
 of the Attorney General as to matters of law.

SB 207 Chapt. 198 Effective: June 18, 2007

Extending the committee to study the funding necessary to operate the hazardous materials program in NH.

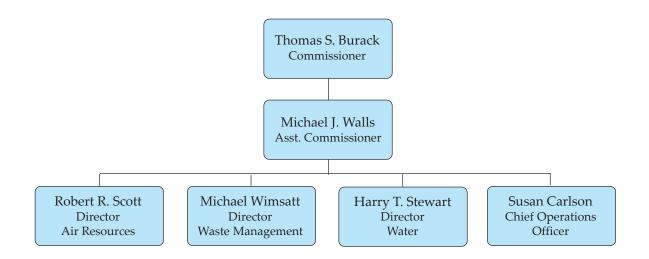
• Extends the committee's reporting deadline to: on or before November 1, 2007.

SB 217-FN Chapt. 348 Effective: July 1, 2007

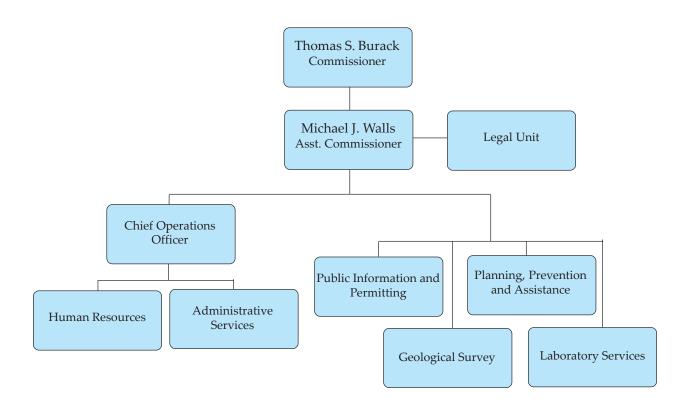
Establishing the NH housing and conservation planning program.

Establishes a housing and conservation planning program in the office of energy and planning.

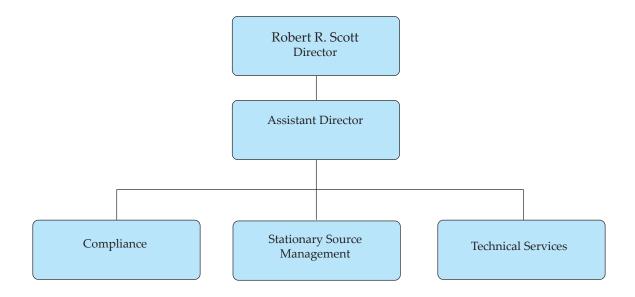
Organizational Charts N.H. Department of Environmental Services June 30, 2007



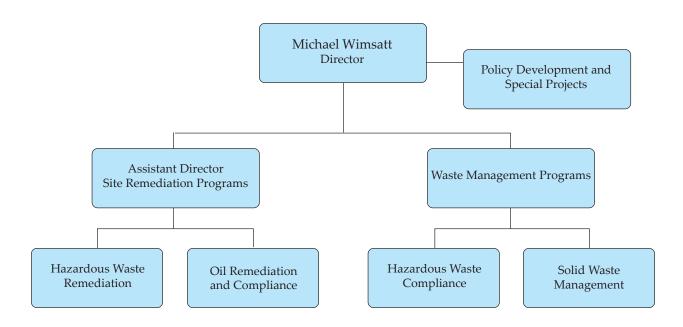
N.H. Department of Environmental Services Office of the Commissioner June 30, 2007



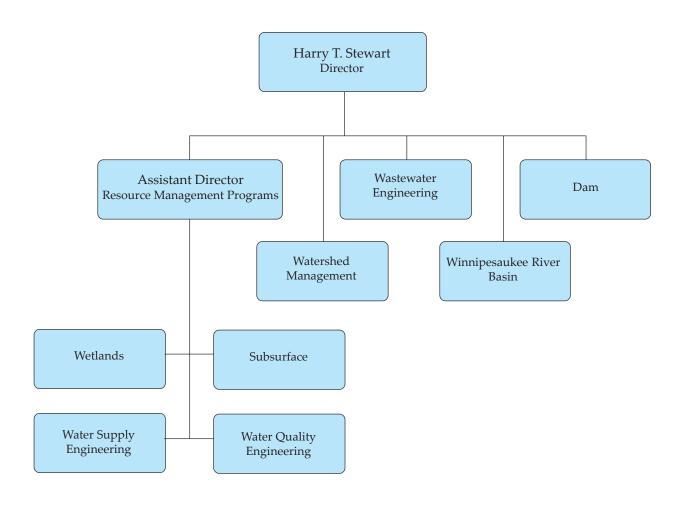
N.H. Department of Environmental Services Air Resources Division June 30, 2007



N.H. Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division June 30, 2007



N.H. Department of Environmental Services Water Division June 30, 2007



Receipts and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2007 Income and General Fund Appropriations

General Fund Appropriations Fees and Registrations State Revolving Fund Loan Repayme Federal Income Other Agency Income Unrestricted Income	ents	\$28,911,737 35,052,218 31,448,491 30,945,712 10,270,098 2,991,025 \$139,619,281
Expenditures		
Salaries and Benefits Salaries Benefits	\$24,123,130 9,804,759	\$33,927,889
State Revolving Fund Loans	7,001,707	\$41,326,049
Oil Fund Board Disbursements		17,564,188
State Aid Grants		16,793,700
Disbursements to State Agencies		6,919,630
OIT	2,479,381	
General Services	1,657,793	
Administrative Services	1,222,784	
Attorney General	442,480	
Telecommunications	257,031	
Safety	255,097	
Mail Room	135,153	
Graphic Services	111,267	
Transportation	106,564	
All others (under \$100,000)	252,080	
Current Expenses		2,661,344
Other Expenditures		2,762,244
Hazardous Waste Cleanup		979,797
Equipment		981,847
Debt Service		968,591
Travel		253,096
		\$125,138,375

Disbursements to Cities and Towns

State Revolving Fund Loans \$41,326,049 Clean Water \$25,231,659 **Drinking Water** 16,094,390 Brownfields -0-State Aid Grants 16,341,563 Waste Water 12,195,029 Landfills 2,030,802 Water Filtration 1,632,596 373,750 Water Supply Land **Interconnection Grants** 109,386 Other State Aid 452,137 **Aquatic Weed Grants** 268,781 Household Hazardous Waste Grants 149,744 **Used Oil Grants** 33,612 **Total** \$58,119,749

DES Personnel Data

Current Number of Employees	FY 2006	FY 2007
Unclassified	8	8
Classified	469	460
Temporary	<u>1</u>	$\underline{4}$
Total	478	472

DES Physical Plant & Property Appraisal

	FY 2006	FY 2007
Equipment	\$11,226,715	\$11,231,747
Motor Vehicles	2,416,949	2,342,245
Dams and Land	57,612,474	57,775,474
Buildings	32,548,992	32,548,992
Total	\$103,805,130	\$103,898,458